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WASHINGTON---The Homestead Grays, defending champions in the Negro National League, zoomed into the loop lead this week on the strength of four straight victories, three of them over the cellar-dwelling New York Black Yankees and the fourth a 8-0 shutout triumph over the Baltimore Elite Giants at Wilmington, Del., Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Cubans continued at a hot pace, twice defeating the Elite Giants in Baltimore, 10-2, on Friday night, and 7-4, on Sunday, while the Philadelphia Stars with wins over the Cubans, 6-4, on Saturday, and the former loop leaders, Newark Eagles, 8-1, Friday, made a strong bid for top recognition.

The Black Yankees provided the upset of the week when they downed the Newark Eagles, 3-1, Sunday, before 12,000 in Yankee Stadium in the nightcap of a three-team twin bill. The Grays played the opener, whitewashing the Yankees, 7-0, on the strength of a neat three-hit pitching job by Red Fields, former Virginia State College athlete.

Felix McLaurin, Yankee centerfielder, smashed a homer to score Rufus Baker in the eighth inning to trip the Eagles. Baker had hit to push Harry Williams, who singled, home for the first run off Leon Day, who lost his second straight against two wins in the upset. Day gave up only four hits while the winning pitcher, Bob Griffith, was touched for six by the Eagles. Lenny Pearson hit a 340-foot homer for the Eagles' only run, the blow coming in the second inning.

Josh Gibson clouted a 440-foot homer in the first game to spark the Grays' 12-hit attack off Neck Stanley and Johnny Johnson. Gibson's blow, which scored Dan Wilson, was hailed as one of the longest ever hit in Yankee Stadium, the ball going into the far-away centerfield stands.

It was Gibson's second long homer in four days, the big catcher, who led the league at bat last year, having hit a 457-foot homer in Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, Wednesday night as the Grays topped the Yankees, 11-8. The Grays repeated on Thursday in Washington, 9-1, then polished the Elite Giants in Wilmington Saturday night, 8-0, as Alonzo Perry, righthand rookie, granted only one hit. Perry had a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth, but Villodes, Elites' Puerto Rican catcher, hit a clean single, for the only safety.

The Cubans scored, 10-2, Friday, over the Elites as Barney Morris hurled six-hit ball, besting Jones Gaines and Bill Barnes, then came back on Sunday to win, 7-4, as Bill Anderson, Crue and Tiant outlasted Bill Eyrd and Joe Black before the rain messed up the day's scheduled twin bill.

The results of the week left the six clubs in a maddo scramble as they battle into the second month of action, with the first half slated to end on July 4.